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QUESTIONS

CIRCULATED UNDER THE AUTHORITY

OF

His Majesty's Commissioners

ON

THE PUBLIC RECORDS

OF

THE KINGDOM,

WITH THE VIEW OF

PROCURING INFORMATION RESPECTING RECORDS, MANUSCRIPTS, &c.

IN THE

POSSESSION OF CORPORATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS,

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF ENGLAND AND IRELAND,

THE ISLE OF MAN,

AND

THE NORMAN ISLES.



LONDON.—MDCCCXXXIII.

A few copies of the Questions lately circulated with the view of obtaining information respecting Records, Manuscripts, &c. in the possession of Corporations and Individuals illustrative of the History and Antiquities of England and Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the Norman Isles, have been put into boards for the use of the Commissioners.

C. P. C.

September, 1833.

COMMISSIONERS

ON

The Public Records of the Kingdom,

APPOINTED BY

HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSION

OF THE

12TH OF MARCH, 1831.

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD BROUGHAM AND VAUX, LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT MELBOURNE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE CHARLES MANNERS SUTTON, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT ALTHORPE, CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR JOHN LEACH, MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM DUNDAS, LORD CLERK REGISTER OF SCOTLAND.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL SPENCER, K.G.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF ABERDEEN, K.T.

THE RIGHT REVEREND THE LORD BISHOP OF LLANDAFF.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THOMAS GRENVILLE.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE CHARLES WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN, M.P.

~~THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR JAMES MACINTOSH.~~

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY HOBHOUSE, KEEPER OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATE PAPERS.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD DOVER.

SIR JAMES PARKE, ONE OF THE JUDGES OF THE COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

SIR JOHN BERNARD BOSANQUET, ONE OF THE JUDGES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

SIR ROBERT HARRY INGLIS, BART. M.P.

LOUIS HAYES PETIT, ESQUIRE.

HENRY BELLENDEN KER, ESQUIRE.

HENRY HALLAM, ESQUIRE.

JOHN ALLEN, ESQUIRE.

EDWARD PROTHEROE, ESQUIRE.

EDWARD VERNON UTTERSON, ESQUIRE.

WILLIAM BROUGHAM, ESQUIRE, M.P.

CHARLES PURTON COOPER, ESQUIRE,

SECRETARY.



Record Commission.

I.

HAVE you any original Charters, or transcripts of Charters, granted by any of the Anglo-Saxon Kings—or by William the Conqueror, William Rufus, Henry I., Stephen, the Empress Maud, Henry II., John, or Henry III.—or by any Earl of the Shire, or Lord of the City, Borough or Town, during these, or any subsequent, reigns? Send a list thereof, containing Dates and Particulars, and the Heading and Testing Clause of such as are undated.

II.

Have you any Rolls, Registers, or Books containing entries or copies of Municipal or other Ordinances, Corporate Proceedings, Guild Regulations, or other matters concerning the City or Borough anterior to the Revolution? Enumerate and describe them. If such Books are known by any proper name, such as the "Domesday," the "Black Book," &c. give the name. State whether these Books have any Indexes or Tables of Contents; and send copies of any such Indexes or Tables which relate to any matters anterior to the reign of Elizabeth.

III.

Have you any Rolls, Registers, or Books containing the Proceedings of the Assemblies, Burghmoots, Portmoots, Congregations, Common Halls, or other Meetings of the Corporation, or of the Aldermen, Capital Burgesses, or other Governing Classes thereof, however they may be denominated, known or held; or of the City or Borough Courts, or other Courts held by, or belonging to, the Corporation, either in respect of the Borough, or of any Manor, Soke, or Franchise appertaining thereto, anterior to the Revolution? State the Style of the Courts, and the Dates and Numbers of the Rolls.

IV.

Have you any ancient Rolls containing Enrolments of Deeds, Wills, or other Assurances, according to the custom of the Borough? Describe them. And if any particular custom prevails in the Borough, such as the acknowledgment of Bargains and Sales, the Levying of Fines by Plaint, &c. state such custom.

V.

Have you any ancient Rolls of Recognizances of the Staple, or Statutes Merchant?

VI.

Have you any Records anterior to the Revolution, not included in the foregoing heads? Describe them, giving Dates and Titles, and all other particulars, distinguishing such as are upon consecutive Rolls, &c. from detached Documents.

VII.

Have you any ancient Manuscript Volumes, not considered as Records, in your Office or Library? Describe them. If they have any Indexes or Tables of Contents, send copies thereof.

VIII.

Have you any Manuscript Collections relating to the Antiquities or History of your Borough, made by yourself or any former Town Clerk, or any other person curious or conversant in these matters?

IX.

Have you any general Repertories, Indexes, or Calendars of the Records or Documents in your custody? State the particulars thereof.

X.

Send an Impression or Impressions from the Matrices of the Corporate Seal or Seals now existing. And if the Borough, at any other period, used any Corporate Seal of which the matrix is lost, but of which an impression is extant, send a cast from the impression, which may be made according to the instructions transmitted herewith.

XI.

Do any Remarkable Customs prevail, or have any Remarkable Customs prevailed within memory, in relation to the Ceremonies accompanying the Choice of Corporate Officers—Annual Processions—Feasts, &c. not noticed in the printed histories or accounts of your Borough. Describe them if there be such.

XII.

Are there any Ancient Insignia, (such as Maces, Swords, &c.) Ancient Works of Art, (such as Cups, Dishes, Carved Chests, Shrines, Paintings, &c.) in the possession of your Corporation? Describe them, and send Copies or Impressions of any Inscriptions or remarkable Engravings, or Carvings thereon, and which may be taken according to the Instructions sent herewith.

XIII.

Are there any Ancient Companies, Guilds, or Fraternities, in your City, Borough, Town, or Corporation? Set forth the Names thereof, and add the Names and Address of the Clerk, or other officers, having the custody of the Muniments belonging thereto respectively.

XIV.

Is any Library annexed to any Parish Church in your Borough or Town? Should any such Library contain any Records or Manuscripts, obtain, if possible, the particulars thereof.

C. P. COOPER,
Secy.

NEW BOSWELL COURT, LINCOLN'S INN,
February, 1833.

Record Commission.

Inscriptions.

CASTS or rubbings from Inscriptions, are of the greatest utility, and much preferable to drawings; because, unless the Draftsman perfectly understands the characters as well as the language of the original—unless the mind instructs the eye and guides the pencil,—he will never be enabled to make a correct copy of the object before him. If there should be an accidental blemish on the stone, he will perhaps insert it as part of a letter, or if a connecting line or member be indistinct, then perhaps he will wholly omit it, supposing the faint trace to be a blemish. Yet a drawing is not without its use, as an accompaniment to a cast or rubbing, and for the purpose of supplying any defects or imperfections.

Impressions or rubbings from Inscriptions may be taken with common printing ink. Very good impressions may, in some cases, be obtained in soft colombier paper, a little dampened, pressing it on the stone, and working it into the letters, &c. with the finger; and, if a little blacklead powder be rubbed *upon* the paper, (not upon the stone, or the side of the paper next the stone,) it will bring out the letters with great clearness. For small Inscriptions, very thin sheet-lead or tin-foil may be advantageously used. The employment of the different modes must be regulated by the size and shape of the stone, &c.

To run Sulphur Impressions from Seals, &c.

Take some good black or blue clay; free it from hard lumps or stones, as also from sand; soften it, by working it with a little water, until it is about the softness of stiff dough; roll your clay, when worked level, to the thickness of about a quarter of an inch. Then take a card, oiled a little on one side; put the oiled side of the card on the clay; then roll the card lightly, it will make the clay very smooth.—Well clean the seal from dust.

Take then a small brush, and oil the seal lightly; take a piece of the smooth clay, large enough to cover the seal, and well work it on with your thumbs, placing the seal on the ends of your fingers. When you think it has got a good impression, take it off, and you then will have a clay matrix; if a good impression, take a piece of card or stiff paper and put round the clay matrix, to confine the sulphur. When run on it, the sulphur should not be made too hot, but put on a slow fire that it may melt gradually.

To make Seals in Wax.

Get fine plaster of Paris; mix it, to the thickness of cream, with cold water; clean and oil the seal before you run the plaster on the seal. When it has stood about a quarter of an hour (or according to the quantity of plaster you have) you may take it off. The next day you may make use of the plaster matrix in the following manner: Melt a piece of candle; when melted, take a soft brush and tallow lightly the face of the plaster matrix, and let it dry in. Then melt your wax in a ladle; if you think it too thick, add a little bit of rosin, which will thin it, but be sure not to make the wax too hot, or you will find it blister a good deal: when melting, stir it while on the fire. If you put the impressions on card, make the card warm, as it will, when the wax is poured on, prevent the wax from blistering. When your wax is poured on the card, lightly oil the plaster matrix; then make the impression by placing the card on a flat, firm board or table—the heavier you bear on the matrix, the deeper will be the impression, but take off the matrix before the wax is cold.

The plaster of Paris will set quicker by being mixed with warm water.

If the matrix (whether of clay or plaster) be carefully made and carefully packed, it may be transmitted without any impressions.

C. P. COOPER,
Secy.

*New Bowell Court, Lincoln's Inn,
February, 1833.*

Record Commission.

IRELAND.

I.

HAVE you any Ancient Manuscripts in the Irish Language, or any Transcripts of such Manuscripts, in your Repository, Libraries or Archives? Are any such Manuscripts in the possession of any Individual in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof? Describe and enumerate them under the following heads :

1. Chronicles, Historical Treatises, or Annals in Prose;—General Histories of Ireland, or of any Kingdom or Province;—Particular Histories of any Sept or Tribe, Colony or Settlement.
2. Chronological Poems containing the Successions of Kings, &c.
3. Lives of Saints, Bishops, Abbots, or Hermits, whether in Prose or Poetry; Hymns in honour of Bishops, Saints, or Holy Men; Visions, Dreams, Prophecies.
4. Histories of Religious Foundations, Collections of Miracles, Canons or Proceedings of Ecclesiastical Councils, Moral or Devotional Treatises.
5. Genealogies of Tribes, Septs or Families, Biographical Accounts of Chieftains.
6. Heraldic Collections.
7. Treatises on Astrology, Astronomy, Alchemy, Necromancy, Magic, Medicine, Surgery, Natural History, Botany, the Virtues of Herbs, Plants, or Gems, &c.
8. Brehon Laws, or Commentaries thereon; Decisions of the Brehons or other Judges.
9. Romances and Romantic Tales.

10. Geographical Treatises; Treatises on the Rights of, and the Tributes due to the Ancient Chieftains.
11. Poems or Poetical Works.
12. Grammatical Works, Vocabularies, or Glossaries.
13. Miscellaneous Works not included in the foregoing Classes.

II.

Have you any Ancient Manuscripts in the Latin or any other Language, or Transcripts of such Manuscripts, in your Repository, Libraries or Archives? Are any such Manuscripts in the possession of any Individual in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof? Describe and enumerate them as above.

III.

Have you in your Repository, Libraries or Archives, any Ancient Registers of any Archbishop, Bishop, Cathedral or Chapter, anterior to the Reformation; Lieger-Books or Chartularies of Bishopricks, Chapters, Monasteries, Priors, Chauntries, Religious Fraternities, or Guilds; Grants to or from Ecclesiastical Bodies or Foundations; Papal Bulls, or Rescripts; or any Transcripts of the before mentioned Muniments; or any other Documents connected with Ecclesiastical History? Describe and enumerate the same. If there be not any in your possession or custody, can you obtain any information concerning the same?—Have you any reason to suppose that any have been carried to Rome, and there deposited in the Vatican, or in the Archives of the Propaganda; or to any other Ecclesiastical or similar Establishments in Foreign Countries? Are any of them in the possession of any of the Roman Catholic Prelates of Ireland? It is stated that during the Persecutions, many such Muniments, &c. were hurried, or otherwise deposited, in secret places. Do you know of any Muniments, &c. so concealed, or of any Traditions or Memorials to that effect?

IV.

Have you any Charters or Grants of any Irish King or Chieftain—or of any English King, anterior to the Reign of Henry VIII.; or any Writs, Mandates, or Privy Seals of any such English King; or of any Earl or other Person possessing Palatine Jurisdiction? Send Copies of the First Class; and the Particulars, Heading and Date, or Testing Clause of the Second Class.

V.

Are there in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof, any Ancient Inscriptions upon Crosses, Tombs, Pillars, or other Monuments, in the Irish, Latin, or any other Language, anterior to the Reign of Elizabeth?—if so, send Copies, Rubbings, Casts or Impressions thereof, according to the Instructions transmitted herewith.

VI.

Send Casts from any curious Seals appended to any Charter, &c. as abovementioned, according to the Instructions.

VII.

Send Impressions from any Ancient Seal-Matrix in your possession.

VIII.

Give full Information concerning any Ancient Relic or Shrine, Crozier, Pax, Chalice, Patten, Cope, or any other Sacred or Sacerdotal Utensil, Vesture or Article (which may have belonged to any Prelate or Establishment anterior to the Reformation); any Ancient Insignia (such as Maces, Swords, &c.); any Ancient Works of Art (such as Cups, Dishes, Carved Chests of Ivory or Wood, Paintings, &c.) existing in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof? Describe the same, add Drawings if possible, and send Copies or Impressions of any remarkable Inscriptions (particularly if in Irish), or of the Carvings or Engravings thereon.

IX.

Is it customary to take Solemn Oaths upon any of the beforementioned Shrines or Relics?

X.

Are there any Superstitious Opinions or Customs prevailing in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof, connected with the Ancient Ordeal Trials, or otherwise with Legal Customs, or with the Administration of the Law; such as the opinion of the Bleeding of the Corpse at the approach of the Murderer; the Transfer of Diseases by the delivery of a Straw, &c.

XI.

Are there in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof, any Ancient Mounds, Rathes, Seats of Stone, &c. upon which it was customary to instal the Ancient Irish Chieftains; any Entrenchments or Circles anciently used as Places of Meeting or of Judgment; any Rathes or Mounds considered as the Graves of Ancient Lawgivers, Heroes, &c.?—if so, describe the same, and send Drawings or Plans thereof.

XII.

Do any Customs grounded upon the Ancient Brehon Law (such as "Bearded Owen's Law," noticed by Sir John Davis) prevail amongst your People? Are there any Traditions or Traditionary Ballads or Stories current in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof, relating to the Ancient History of the Country, the Achievements of Ancient Kings or Heroes, the Decisions of Ancient Lawgivers, Deemsters, or Brehons, the Miracles of Saints, the Administration of Justice, the Escape or Punishment of remarkable Criminals; any Sports or Games (even amongst Children) containing any Memorials of Legal Formula; any Proverbs or Sayings relating thereto?—if so, set forth the same.

XIII.

Are there in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof, any Collections of State Papers, Letters, Autographs, or Correspondence of any Public Functionary, or Private Individual, belonging to the Period included between the Accession of Henry VIII. and the Accession of George I., which can in anywise elucidate the History of Ireland at large, of your County, City, Town, Barony or Parish, in particular, or of any Tribe, Race, Sept, Family, or Individual of Rank, Note or Eminence?

XIV.

Are there any Persons in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof, who study the Ancient or "Hard Irish," or who form Collections of Ancient Irish or other Manuscripts, or Transcripts thereof, or who otherwise employ themselves in the Ancient History of Ireland, or in Antiquarian Research?

XV.

Are there any Persons in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof, able and willing to transcribe Ancient Irish Manuscripts?

XVI.

Are there any Persons in your County, City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof, who have any pretensions to the Title of a Brehon, or who represent or are descended from the Ancient Bards, Brehons, Cahans, or other Functionaries, Hereditary or otherwise, of the Ancient Kingdoms, Colonies, Septs, Communities, or Noble Families?

XVII.

Is there in your County, City, Town, Barony or Parish, any Catholic Religious Fraternity, Guild or Society, which can trace or deduce its Succession from a Period anterior to the Establishment of Protestantism? Is there any vestige in your present Catholic Ecclesiastical Establishment, of any of the Ancient Dignities, Corbans, Herenachs, &c. which were peculiar to the Ancient Irish Church? Or is there any other circumstance connected with your Catholic Establishment, (derived from the Ante-Reformation Period,) differing from the ordinary Arrangements, and which may be interesting to the Ecclesiastical Antiquary?

XVIII.

Is there in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof, any Tract, supposed to have been settled by the *Danes* or *Eastmen*, or by any Flemish or Anglo-Saxon Colony, anciently designated as the "*Cantreda Ostmannorum*," or by any similar name? If the Irish Language be spoken therein, does the Language exhibit any Peculiarities?

XIX.

Do any peculiar Tenures or Legal Customs prevail in such District?

XX.

What are the peculiar Customs prevailing in your City, Town, Barony or Parish, or in the vicinity thereof, in respect of the Annual or other Division of Common Lands? Is the Division made by the authority of a species of Jury, or by Lot, or in what other manner?

XXI.

In describing Manuscripts, attend to the following directions, and furnish the following Particulars.

1. Title, name of Author, nature of the Work; and the beginning and concluding Paragraphs of the Work, or of the principal Chapters or Sections thereof.
2. Date, either from Authority or by Conjecture.
3. Material, whether Vellum, Parchment, or Paper;—and size of the Volume.
4. Illuminations, if any.
5. Nature of the Binding, if Ancient or Curious.
6. Examine the Fly-Leaves, and see if they chance to contain any curious Memoranda, and be sure to turn the Volume over Leaf by Leaf, in order to ascertain whether it does not contain more than one Work: *never* depend upon the Title of a Manuscript, or upon any Table of Contents prefixed to the same; and if you allow a Manuscript to be rebound, be careful to examine the Ancient Binding and preserve all portions containing any writing.
7. If the Work be Historical, state whether it be printed in the “*Scriptores Rerum Hibernicarum*,” or in any other Collection.
8. If an Historical Work be not Printed, state the Period which it embraces.
9. If the Manuscript be a Collection of Poems, enumerate all and every the Pieces. The same if it be a Collection of Legendary or other Stories or Tales.
10. If it be legal, i. e. whether the Brehon Laws, or any Comments thereupon, state the several Laws (referring, if needful, to the Fragments published by Valancy). If a Commentary, state the Name of the Commentator.
11. If it be the Life of a Saint, state whether the same does or does not agree with any Life of the same Individual in Messyngham, Colgan, Surius, or the Bollandists, or elsewhere.
12. If Liturgical, state whether it contains any Particular Offices not in common use, whether it be conformable to the Roman Office, or to the Gallician, or any other Ancient Liturgy. Is there any

thing remarkable in the Litany, or does it contain any other Matter worthy of Note. If a Version of the Holy Scriptures, whether it be the Vulgate, or any of the older Versions.

14. If Grammatical or Philological, such as a Glossary or Vocabulary, examine it very carefully, in order to ascertain if it affords any Elucidation of the difference of Dialects in different parts of Ireland.

XXII.

General Directions.—In all cases transmit Copies or Extracts of any Document or Manuscript, which you suppose to be Curious or Interesting. Do not stint yourself in making Extracts. Always send the Original Text, whether Latin, Irish, or in any other Language, accompanied (if in Irish) by a Translation. Fac-similes of Ancient Manuscripts are always desirable, together with Tracings from Drawings or Illuminations.

Give all the Traditionary Stories, Narratives, Legends, Ballads, &c. inquired after, in Irish, (if Irish be the Language of the Country,) adding a Translation. Retain all the Idioms and peculiar Expressions employed by the Relators, without attempting to reduce their Colloquial Dialect into Book or Bible-Irish. In collecting these Stories, &c. &c. do not omit any thing as trivial or unworthy of Notice—*collect all you can*—whatever it may be, it will be clear gain.

N.B. Officers of Corporations will be pleased to answer such of the Queries addressed to English Corporate Officers, as may be applicable to their Repositories.

C. P. COOPER,
Secy.

June, 1833.

Record Commission.

ISLE OF MAN.

I.

HAVE you any Charters, or Transcripts of Charters, granted by the Kings, Earls, or Lords of the Orkneys, or of the Island; or by any ancient Sovereigns of Scotland or England, as mentioned below;¹ or by any Norwegian Kings; or by any ancient Prelate anterior to the Reformation, or by any Abbot, or Monastery,—or any Papal Bulls,—and whether relating to the Island at large, or to any individual, or to any Religious Community? Specify them. If dated, add the Dates; if undated, send a copy of the Heading and of the Testing Clause.

II.

Send Dates, Titles, Descriptions, and full particulars of the following Classes of Records and Muniments, distinguishing whether they are Rolls, Books, or Registers, or loose or detached Records upon Files, or otherwise; state also the Language in which they are written. Give the Style of the Court, and state whether any and which of them are printed in the Collection of the Statutes of the Isle of Man, or in any other publication. If there be any Calendar, Index, or Synopsis of such Records, or their Contents, embracing the periods after mentioned, send copies thereof.

1. Proceedings and Transactions of the Court of the Commons of Man, Court of Tynwald, House of Keys, or by whatsoever other name the Supreme Legislature of the Island is or has been known, from the earliest period to the present time.
2. Statutes, Ordinances, or other Legislative Enactments of the Commons of Man, Tynwald, or House of Keys, also to the present time.

¹ *England*—William the Conqueror, William Rufus, Henry I., the Empress Maud, Stephen, Henry II., John, or Henry III. *Scotland*—Edgar, Alexander I., David I., Malcolm IV., William, Alexander II., Alexander III.

3. Proceedings and Transactions of the Lords' Council, and Ordinances made by the Lord or Lord's Council.¹
4. Proceedings of the "Shedding Courts," distinguishing (if they be distinguished) the Proceedings of the Court as a "Hundred Court" from its Proceedings as a "Court Baron."¹
5. Proceedings of the Head Court, or Court of Jail delivery.¹
6. Proceedings of the Courts of the Baronies of *Banger, Sabal*, and *St. Tinions*.²
7. Rolls of the Suits and Services of the Barons, or Tenants of the Island.¹
8. Proceedings of the Courts of Chancery and Exchequer.²
9. Writs or other Documents relating to the election or appointment of Deemsters, Coroners, Moars, or the Members of the Court of *Tymcald* or House of Keys.¹
10. Presentments made by Inquests to the "Shedding" Court of matters cognizable by the Common Law.¹
11. Presentments by Sheddings, Parishes, or Townships, of matters cognizable by the Courts Christian.¹
12. Monastic Registers. Accounts of Receivers or Bailiffs of the Lord or of any Baron.
13. Letters or Correspondence on Public Affairs, or on matters relating to the Island.¹

III.

Are there any Ancient Treatises in the Manx, or other Language, relating to the Ancient Laws, Legal Customs, or Jurisprudence of the Island? Describe them, if any, and send copies thereof, or such Extracts and Translations as may give an adequate idea of their contents.

IV.

Is there any Collection in Writing of the Forms anciently used in the Ancient Oral Proceedings according to the Manx Law,—such as the Summons of a Witness or Party,—the Fencing of the Court,—the Pacification of the Blood-feud,—the Sale or Bequest of Land,—the giving of Seisin, &c.

¹ To the Revolution.

² As late as they exist.

If these Forms be not extant in writing, and any person living be acquainted with them from recollection or tradition, set them forth in the Manx Language, with a Translation in English. Are there any curious Traditions, Ballads, or Stories current in the Island, concerning the Administration of Justice, the Punishment of Remarkable Criminals, &c.—any Sports or Games (even amongst Children) containing any Memorial of Legal Formula, any Proverbs, or Sayings relating thereto? If so, let them be also written down in the Manx Language, with a *Translation in English*.

V.

Send a Description or Drawing of any Symbol, such as a Horn, Arrow, Staff, or other Token, metal, wood, or stone, (or the Articles themselves,) anciently used in Legal Proceedings, such as the Summons by the Deemster, the Delivery of the Seisin of Land, &c.

VI.

Send Impressions from the Matrices of the Official Seals in use in the Island; and Casts, taken from the Impression of any of which the Matrices are lost.¹

VII.

Send Rubbings, or Impressions,¹ or Casts, as may be most convenient, of *all* the Runic Inscriptions now existing in the Island.

VIII.

Do you know of any Collections concerning the History or Antiquities of the Island, in the possession of any Private Individuals, who would be willing to communicate the same?

¹ See Instructions sent herewith for the mode of taking Casts, &c.

Record Commission.

NORMAN ISLANDS.

I.

HAVE you any Charters, or Transcripts of Charters, granted by the Kings of France or the Dukes of Normandy before the Conquest; or by William the Conqueror, Robert II., Rufus, Henry I., Geoffry of Anjou, Matilda, Stephen, Henry II., Henry the Younger, Richard I., or John;—or any Charters, Instruments, &c. granted by any Prelate, Abbot, or Monastic Establishment before the Reformation;—or any Papal Bulls;—or any Writs or Mandates under the Privy Seal of the Kings of England of any date anterior to the Revolution? Specify all the before-mentioned Documents, as well those which relate to the Island or Islanders in general, as to any Individual or Community.

II.

Send Dates, Titles, Descriptions and Full Particulars of the following classes of Records and Muniments, distinguishing whether they are Rolls, Books, or Registers, or loose or detached Records, upon files or otherwise. Enumerate the several Rolls, Books, &c., and add the Styles of the several Courts. State also the Language in which they are written. State whether there are any Calendars or Indexes of such Records, or their contents.

1. Proceedings of the States of the Island.
2. Ordonnances, Statutes, or other Legislative Enactments made by the States of the Island.
3. Ordonnances for the government and regulation of the Island made by the King as Duke of Normandy, or by his Commissioners, or by the Privy Council of England.
4. Proceedings of the "*Cour Royale*."
5. Proceedings of the "*Cour de Heritage*."
6. Proceedings of the "*Cour de Catel*," or "*Cour Mobiliare*."
7. Proceedings of the "*Cour du Billet*."
8. Proceedings of the "*Cour Ordinaire*."
9. Proceedings of the "*Cour Extraordinaire*."

10. Proceedings of the "*Cour d'Appel*."
11. Proceedings of Feudal or Seigniorial Courts held in respect of Fiefs, Seigneuries, or Baronies vested in the Crown (such as the Fief of St. Michael).
12. Rolls, or other Records, of Suits and Services due to the King's Courts by the Seigneurs, Military Tenants, Vavassors, or other Free Tenants;—or by the Villains, or Bordiers;—or by any other Vassals, and either to his Courts as Duke of Normandy, or to the Court of any Fief vested in the Crown—or in respect of Military or Predial Services.
13. Writs, or other Documents, relating to the Appointment, Election, or Acceptance of the Coroners, Jurats, Constables, Vintaineers or Dozeineers.
14. Rolls, or Proceedings of, or before the Vintaineers or Dozeineers.
15. Presentments of Inquests or Juries of the Parishes, or other Juries.
16. Muster Rolls, or other Proceedings, relating to the Military Array of the Island.
17. Accounts of Bailiffs or Receivers of the Crown.
18. Writs, Inquests, or other Proceedings in real Actions according to the Norman Law.
19. Rolls or Proceedings of the Ancient Coroners.
20. Post Mortem Inquisitions, or other Proceedings of a similar nature upon the Death of a Tenant in Capite; or the Tenant of any Seignurie vested in the Crown. Records of the Receipt of Homage and Fealty, or other similar Proceedings, upon the delivery of Seizin to the Heir.
21. Proceedings of any other Criminal, Civil, or Ecclesiastical Court not before enumerated.

III.

Are there any Books, or other Documents, relating to the Committal or Custody of State Prisoners in "Mont Orgeuil," "Castle Cornet," or any other State Prison? Send the particulars thereof.

IV.

Do you know of any Ancient Manuscripts of the "*Coutumier*" of Normandy, or any Treatise or Commentary thereon?

V.

Do any Local Customs, differing from the general Customs of Normandy, prevail in any particular "Seigneurie" or Parish? Is there any Manuscript Account of such Local Customs?

VI.

State the Names of all the several Fiefs or "Seigneuries" vested in Individuals, in which Feudal Courts are, or have been held, and state any Particulars which you know, or can obtain, concerning the Rolls or Records thereof.

VII.

Describe and particularize any Documents illustrating the Nature of the Ancient Tenures of the Island, and particularly the Tenures of the Bordiers or Villains, and the manner in which Villainage became extinguished in the Island.

VIII.

Are there any Lieger Books, or other Manuscripts, relating to the Monastic Houses, or other ancient Ecclesiastical Establishments in, or connected with, the Island? If so, describe them.

IX.

Are there any State Papers, or Letters, to or from any distinguished Personages, or similar Documents, preserved either in the Archives of the Island, or in the possession of Private Individuals?

X.

Are there any Ancient Manuscripts, Muniments or Documents, (not included in the classes before enumerated,) either in the Public Archives or in Private Hands, which illustrate the Civil or Ecclesiastical History of the Island, its Laws and Privileges, the Tenures of Land, the Genealogies of the Seignorial Families, their Arms or Bearings, or the Biography of any Person of eminence born in, or connected with the Islands?

XI.

Are there any Collections relating to the History, Antiquities, or Jurisprudence of the Island, made by any Individual curious in such matters? Send particulars thereof, if any.

XII.

Send impressions of the Matrices of the different Official Seals now in use in the Island, and casts of any of which the Matrices are no longer existing.

XIII.

Are there any Traditions, Traditionary Tales, Ballads, &c. current in the Island, relating to its ancient Laws or History? Describe any curious Legal Customs, such as the "*Clameur de Haro*," &c. prevailing, or which have prevailed, in relation to the Administration of Justice, the Tenure of Land, &c. Are there any Proverbs or sayings which refer to ancient Legal Customs, or are any vestiges of them to be traced in any Sports or Games, even of children? If so, transmit such traditions, &c. in the Dialect of the Island, retaining as much as is possible of the Peculiarities of such Dialect.

C. P. COOPER,
Secy.

NEW BOSWELL COURT, LINCOLN'S INN,
February, 1853.

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